

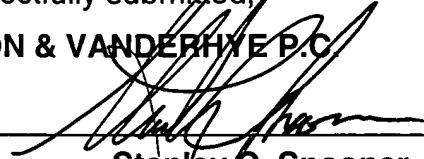
**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims, without prejudice. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent applications and to add an Abstract of the Invention.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:

  
**Stanley C. Spooner**

Reg. No. 27,393

**SCS:jsm**

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100